

AGENDA

Meeting: Working Group on Parish & Community Governance Reviews
Place: Springfield Campus, Beechfield Rd, Corsham, Cottingham SN13 9DN
Date: Wednesday 14 October 2015
Time: 7.00 pm

- 1 **Welcome & Introductions**
- 2 **Purpose and procedures of the meeting** (*Pages 3 - 8*)
- 3 **Proposals**
 - 3a **Rudloe excluding Wadswick Area**
 - 3b **Box PC Proposal**
 - 3c **Land to the East of the A350 Main Road**
- 4 **Close**

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL - COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW 2014/15

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is a Community Governance Review (CGR)?

These reviews were previously called Parish Reviews and they are usually undertaken every 10-15 years to make sure that the boundaries and electoral arrangements of parishes within an area are working well.

A CGR must:-

- Reflect the identities and interests of the communities in that area; and
- be effective and convenient.

Consequently, a CGR must take into account:-

- the impact of community governance arrangements on community cohesion; and
- the size, population and boundaries of a local community or parish.

Therefore any changes made by a CGR must improve communities and local democracy in the parish or parishes concerned.

Why is the Council doing this now?

The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 transferred responsibility for these reviews to principal councils. A number of parishes and towns within the county have asked the council to review their boundaries.

Some information on this Review refers to parish or town wards – what are these?

Some large parishes are divided into smaller sections, called wards, and these can reflect the character of a parish. For instance, if a parish contains two villages, with quite separate identities, then the parish might be split into two separate wards, with separate parish councillors for each ward.

How many councillors can a Parish Council have?

There must not be fewer than five councillors on a parish council but there is no maximum number given. Ideally, the number of members on a parish council should reflect the size of the parish overall.

Will my post code change?

No, Royal Mail has a separate process for setting postcodes, which do not correlate with parish boundaries.

Does changing a parish boundary make any difference to the likelihood of development occurring on the edge of settlements?

No. The criteria, and the legislation that sits behind it, for determining whether or not parish boundaries should change bears no relation to the legislation that guides the determination of planning applications. In simple terms, if a proposal for development comes forward the parish within which that development sits has no direct relevance to the decision whether to grant planning permission or not.

Will this affect my council tax bill?

Possibly. Most parish councils levy what is known as a precept to cover their costs. Typically the contribution toward your parish council is around 5% of the council tax you pay. There are variations between parish precepts so it is likely that this element of your council could change if your property moves into a different parish.

The 2014/15 and 2015/16 Council Tax band D charge and precept for all parishes can be seen at:

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/counciltaxhousingandbenefits/counciltax/ctaxhowmuch/counciltaxbanddandpreceptallparishes.htm>

It is not possible to say what the 2016/17 charges will be, and nor is it possible to predict the effect of the Community Governance proposals on these parish precepts.

Will I have to get official documents like my driving licence changed if my property moves from one parish to another?

No. The key elements of your address for official purposes are your house name/number, street and postcode. There are many examples already of where a postal address records a property in a different town/parish than the one in which it is actually situated.

If my property moves from one parish to another, do I need to change my passport details?

No. Your passport does not contain your address, therefore there is no requirement to update the details.

What sort of factors might be taken into account when looking at community identity?

There is no set list of factors; the following offers a few suggestions:

- Where do you tell your friends you live?
- Where are your key services, e.g. shops, doctors, pub, sports club, social club?
- Where do you think the boundary with the next parish is?
- Do you know which parish you live in?
- Are there any natural physical boundaries such as a river, road, hill nearby?
- Are there any Community groups or associations in the area which help to indicate where communities begin and end?

Where can I read more about Community Governance Reviews and how they operate?

The Department for Communities and Local Government and the Local Government Boundary Commission have produced guidance on how to conduct reviews and what they should cover.

This can be seen at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/community-governance-reviews-guidance>

Community Governance Review Survey Autumn 2015

These reviews were previously called Parish Reviews and they are usually undertaken every 10-15 years to make sure that the boundaries and electoral arrangements of parishes within an area are working well.

A Community Governance Review must:-

Reflect the identities and interests of the communities in that area;
and be effective and convenient.

Consequently, a review must take into account:-

The impact of community governance arrangements on community cohesion; and the size, population and boundaries of a local community or parish.

1. Are you answering this survey as?
 - A resident of the area affected by the proposal
 - A business or commercial concern in the area affected by the proposal
 - A representative of a Parish or Town or City council affected by the proposal
 - An interested party not necessarily from the area affected

2. Which of the following town and or parish reviews are you referring to?

3. What is your name and postcode or your business or organisation name?

4. Having studied the proposal for your area do you?

- Agree with the proposal
- Disagree with the proposal
- I would suggest the following amendment

Please give reasons for your response above:

[Empty text box for providing reasons]

5. What are the reasons for your response above in relation to "Community Identity"?

6. What are the reasons for your response above in relation to "Efficient and Effective Local Government"?

7. How far do you agree or disagree that the proposed changes to the parish boundaries where you live will improve the following factors?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree not disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
A sense of civic pride and civic values	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A strong inclusive community and voluntary sector	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A strong sense of place and local distinctiveness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Effective engagement with the local community	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Provide strong local leadership	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Enable local authorities to deliver quality services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Create a parish of the right size	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

8. Finally do you have any other views about this review that you feel should be taken into account?

Thank you for taking part in this survey. If you need any further information about the survey you can contact the Electoral Services Team on
Phone: 0300 456 0112

Corsham & Box Area

Email: cgr@wiltshire.gov.uk

It is our usual policy on Community Governance type surveys to treat all results as non confidential

Please return to: Electoral Services Team, Wiltshire Council, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, BA14 8JN

Strongly agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Finally do you have any other views about the review that you feel should be taken into account?

Thank you for taking part in the survey. If you need any further information about the survey you can contact the Electoral Services Team on
Phone: 01292 422 111